Allocation of Funds for Development of Tourism

†*135. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of year-wise total amount set by the Central Government for the development of tourism in the country especially in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether any detailed scheme has been submitted by the concerned State Governments for the overall development of tourism in these States;

(c) whether Government have decided to develop a well-planned whole-time tourist spot in Dholavira of Kutch region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) and (b) Out of total budget allocation of Rs. 485.75 crores for the Ministry of Tourism for the Ninth Plan, the budget provided for 1997-98 was Rs. 100.00 crores, for 1998-99 it was Rs. 110.00 crores and for 1999-2000 the Budget Estimate is Rs. 160.50 crores. In consultation with the State Govts./Union Territories the Ministry has decided to sanction 98 new schemes for Central Financial Assistance for development of Tourism in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for the current financial year. The details of the Central financial assistance sanctioned for the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for the first three years of Ninth Plan is as follows:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	State	No. of projects sanctioned 1997-98	Amount sanctioned 1997-98	No. of projects sanctioned 1998-99	Amount sanctioned 1998-99	No. of projects Prioritized 1999-2000	Amount Prioritized 1999-2000
1.	Gujarat	7	111.84	15	449.57	36	952.00
2.	Madhya Pradesh	10	119.31	18	441.39	20	534.00
3.	Maharashtra	12	169.84	18	496.27	42	1345.00

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism have sanctioned Dholavira Development Project for an amount of Rs. 32.69 lakhs during the year 1998-99. In the current financial year the project Development of Dholavira (Phase-I) has been prioritized for Rs. 93.00 lakhs in consultation with the Government of Gujarat.

Threat to the convergence of Ganga and Bhagirathi

*136. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to stop erosion of the Bhagirathi near Akheriganj in the district of Murshidabad, West Bengal, which threatens convergence of the Ganga and the Bhagirathi; and

(b) the action being taken to divert the changing course of the Ganga along the river Pagla in the district of Malda bypassing Farakka barrage?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) An Expert Committee set up by the Union Government in the year 1996 to examine the erosion problem by the river Ganga in Malda and Murshidabad districts has recommended protection of the Akheriganj on the right bank of river Ganga by spurs and revetment works. The Union Government in consultation with the Government of West Bengal during 1997 had prioritised schemes recommended by the Expert Committee for execution by the Centre (Farakka Barrage Project Authority) and West Bengal, in accordance with their jurisdiction. The scheme for protection of Akheriganj area was prioritised as a short term measure to be executed by the State Government from the State Plan Funds. At the request of the State Government, an amount of Rs. 30 crore as additional Central Assistance was provided by the Centre as a special case to the Government of West Bengal during the financial year 1998-99 for execution of short term measures including the scheme for protection of Akheriganj.

(b) To arrest the changing course of Ganga along the river Pagla in the district of Malda upstream of Farakka barrage, Government of West Bengal has proposed to undertake repair of existing spurs,

345/RS/F-3A